

C o p y

University of Basel - Institute for Hygiene and Bacteriology, Basel (Switzerland), Petersplatz 10, 3d Aug. 1950

Confidential

To the Chief of the Division of Research
Grants and Fellowships
National Institute of Health

B e t h e s d a / Maryland

Concerning the research fellowship application of Mr. W. Burgdorfer I am submitting to you the following recommendation.

I know Mr. Burgdorfer primarily as student taking a special course of Bacteriology at the Institute of Hygiene and Bacteriology of the Basle University under my direction. As a student he showed a keen interest even in a subject outside of his main interest. He seemed to be a careful, clever worker having chiefly an interest on the experimental side of the problems treated in this course. I had also an opportunity to discuss with him some phases of the research work he was carrying out. Specially discussing with him the possibilities to gain a deeper insight in the mode of transmission of *Spirochaeta duttoni* from tick to tick. I had a favourable impression about his way of thinking, realizing the feasible experiments and first of all about his keen interest to work assiduously on purely experimental questions. The glass capillary method he has developed might be useful to find out something about the immunity of the ticks in different phases of *Spirochaeta duttoni* infection.

I have no doubt, that if the fellowship would be awarded to Mr. Burgdorfer he would be able to accomplish a useful research work on the rich material Dr. Gord. Davis disposes of at the special laboratories in Hamilton. Mr. Burgdorfer needs of course a guidance of experienced workers even on the field he was working in. As far as I could judge him, he would however be a very willing collaborator with whom it is agreeable to work with.

I would like furthermore to point out, that other special studies he could make in Hamilton would be very useful for Switzerland and indirectly also perhaps for the geographical extension of your epidemiological research. I am thinking primarily of the studies on Q-fever, which were conducted outside of Australia mainly in the USA. Little is known about the occurrence and about the epidemiological significance of Q-fever in Switzerland and in this part of Europe. Mr. Burgdorfer had the opportunity to work together with those clinicians who had the foremost interest on the occurrence of Q-fever in Switzerland. He